

The Osprey obtains the greater part of its living in Bristol from the fish seines that run out from the shores in every feasible place, and the Hawks are to be seen at all hours of the day sitting on the poles that support the nets, now and then driving in, or rather dropping down, to obtain some denizen that it contains. In the noonday numbers of Hawks gather over the bay and fields and, mounting high in the air, circle round and round, uttering a combination of piercing, musical cries, which the farmers insist upon calling a song. This song, if so it can be called, begins with three notes in the same key, then two in a higher, and then the completing note in the same key with the first three. If the cry of any Hawk can be spoken of as a song, these six musical notes of the Osprey are certainly as near to it as any.

The Ospreys in Bristol have been so carefully watched,—as the belief among the farmers is that they protect their poultry from other marauding Hawks,—that they have become very tame and only when the eggs are nearly hatched or when the young are in the nest do they pay any heed to a passer by. Their dislike for dogs is apparently stronger than for men, yet I have never seen them strike either.

In the last week of October or the first in November they leave for the south and are replaced by the Gulls. The colonies in New Jersey and on Plum Island are of course much larger but almost every year new pole nests are added to the colony in Bristol and the future may see a much larger community.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Boston, Mass.*

The Great Gray Owl in Oneida County, New York.—A handsome specimen of the Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex cinerea*) was shot at White Lake, Oneida County, during a cold snap the first part of last February. It is a rare bird in this locality, its occurrence being recorded about once every ten years.—WILLIAM S. JOHNSON, *Boonville, N. Y.*

January Occurrence of the 'Sapsucker' in Brookline, Mass.—On Feb. 6, 1895, one of the coldest days of the year, with the wind blowing at about forty miles an hour, I sighted a small Woodpecker on the lee side of an apple tree on my father's place in Brookline, Mass. As he seemed a little too large for a Downy Woodpecker, I investigated and found him to be an immature male Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). He was clinging to the trunk of the tree and seemed, upon my approach, to be quite sluggish. I even went so far as to attempt to catch him in my hand, when he suddenly proved that he was not sluggish at all, and flew up into the top of the tree to peck at a frozen apple. So I went back to the house and having procured my gun, gathered him in. He proved to be in fine, fat condition and not crippled in any way. I afterwards found that some nephews of mine had seen him several times on apple trees in the vicinity, but not knowing of the rarity of this occurrence in the month of January, they said nothing to me about it.

I had, on several occasions, during the early part of the winter, noted apparently fresh borings on a Larch tree (*Larix europæa*) on our place, and had heretofore been unable to account for them. I know of no other instance of this bird's wintering in Massachusetts except that Mr. William Brewster writes me he killed one in January some years ago.—F. H. KENNARD, *Brookline, Mass.*

Breeding of Traill's Flycatcher in Eastern Massachusetts.—On June 18, 1895, I took a set of four eggs of Traill's Flycatcher in Lynnfield, a small town twelve miles north of Boston. On various occasions earlier in the month I had seen Traill's Flycatchers in a bushy meadow and the actions of individual birds led me to believe that one and perhaps two pairs of this species were intending to breed.

On June 16 I searched for a nest and soon found one with three eggs. The following morning there were four eggs. On neither occasion was a bird seen at the nest but on the morning of the 17th one of the Traill's Flycatchers flew about in the neighboring bushes and complained. On the afternoon of June 18 I went to the nest in company with Messrs. E. H. Forbush and C. E. Bailey. As on previous occasions, the bird was not on the nest. Mr. Bailey ensconced himself in the bushes and after an hour's wait shot one of the Flycatchers. The bird came near the nest and drove away a Maryland Yellow-throat, and then after an interval appeared again and lit on the nest and looked at the eggs. A moment later Mr. Bailey shot her. This bird is now in the collection of Mr. Wm. Brewster.

The nest is a typical Traill's, being constructed of fine grasses and neatly lined. The body of the nest is a quite compact and well-made structure but there is a lot of loose odds and ends in the shape of long, grasses stringing down from the outside of the nest.

The eggs, four in number, and very slightly incubated, are white with reddish spots (nearly flesh-colored), these being principally at the larger end and forming a slight ring. The nest was three and a half feet from the ground and in a small wild rose-bush. The locality is a bushy meadow, the growth being principally alder, young maple, white cedar and wild rose-bushes.—J. A. FARLEY, *Newton, Mass.*

The Western Meadowlark at Racine, Wisc., etc.—In the April number of 'The Auk' (Vol. XII, p. 192) I find a communication from an observer in northern Michigan, if I remember rightly, recording the appearance there of the Western Meadowlark—*Sturnella magna neglecta* (Aud.).

It was with much interest that I heard this bird was at Racine, Wisc., where its note sounded strange enough, although I had long been familiar with it in California. Dr. Hoy, so well known in the Northwest, some years ago reported "this variety as occurring occasionally, near Racine."

In this connection I should like to make mention of one of our eastern Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) which I saw last spring in Connecticut,